The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" My hon. Friend, I thought, was an assistant sessions judge at one time and he knows that very strong cases sometimes do not end in conviction."

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—" No, Sir, somebody must be hanged." (Laughter.)

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Presumably myself."

A Voice :—" Mr. Saldanha is speaking as an M.L.C. but not as assistant sessions judge."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—" Does it not follow if, in a large number of cases very few end in conviction, that something is wrong somewhere, and that the police are not on the alert ? "

The hon. the President :—" We have already far exceeded the time allotted for questions."

Railways.

Casualties in the recent Ponneri train tragedy.

* 321 Q.—Mr. R. Veerian : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of lives lost in the recent Ponneri train tragedy ;

(b) what was the main reason for such an accident ;

(c) what steps and other remedial measures were taken by the concerned railway to prevent any further accident ; and

(d) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a) to (c), whether they will be pleased to call for the information ?

A.—(a) Ten.

(b) The persons killed were walking along the railway line to Ponneri instead of going along the road and had to cross a bridge over a jungle stream. The bridge had only a narrow footway of zinc sheeting. As they were crossing the bridge they were run into by the local passenger train. It was dark and the engine was running tender foremost. The bridge is not usually made use of by the public. In this case the victims took a quick cut along the railway line in their hurry to get to a festival.

(c) It is not possible to prevent such accidents if people will trespass on the railway lines.

Mr. G. Rameswara Rao :—" May I know out of the ten lives that were lost, how many were Adi-Dravidas ?"

The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I do not know if any one was."

Mr. R. Veerian :—" In regard to clause (b) may I know whether the Government will be pleased to ask the Railway authorities to have search-lights for their engines, so that we may avoid such accidents in the future ? "

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The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"May I suggest that the engines with search lights are likely to give rise to more frequent accidents. That is the trouble with regard to the motor cars carrying bright lights which have the effect of dazzling people and bringing them more within the zone of accidents."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Veterinary.

Alleged compulsory inoculation against rinderpest.

322 Q.—Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that compulsory inoculation has been enforced in some taluks against rinderpest, and if so, in how many taluks;

(*b*) how many veterinary assistant surgeons have been working in each of such taluks;

(*c*) whether any more hands have been posted to those taluks to cope up with the work of compulsory inoculation; and

(*d*) if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) Yes; in 15 taluks at different periods.

(*b*) The touring veterinary assistant surgeons in whose jurisdiction the taluks lay attended to inoculation with the help in some cases of assistants not otherwise engaged from elsewhere.

(*c*) & (*d*) Eight.

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Condition of the Ghat road from Charmadi to Mysore.

323 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to refer to his answer to question No. 1081 given on 21st October 1924 (XX–932 and 989) and to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that since the present monsoon broke out, the Ghat road from the Charmadi village to the frontier of the Mysore territory has been in a most unsatisfactory condition practically impossible for even carts to use except at great damage to conveyance and injury to bullocks;

(*b*) whether this state of disrepair is brought about every year; and

(*c*) whether considering the importance of this main artery of traffic as recognized in the report of the president of the district board (XX–989), what steps Government have taken or are going to take in conjunction with the district board for placing the route in a suitable condition for traffic?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information.

(*c*) The District Board should take the necessary action as the road in question is a second-class road. The Government, however, propose to give a grant of Rs. 30,000 in the current year to the South Kanara District Board for the repair of damage to second-class roads.